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FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Representing All Enlisted Personnel of the
U.S. NAVY ★ MARINE CORPS ★ U.S. COAST GUARD

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16 August 2004

Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554
FAX No. 202-418-2801

Ref: Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) notes with concern, a recent *Marine Corps Times* article regarding a proposed ruling before the Commission, which if adopted, would cause an increase in the cost of prepaid phone cards 'by as much as 20 percent.' It's inconceivable that such a recommendation would be considered in light of the significant number of prepaid phone cards purchased by and for our uniformed service members who are engaged in combat in Iraq and assigned to other duty in indigenous areas outside the United States.

Numerous U.S. citizens along with a number of charitable and veterans' organizations (including FRA branches) are purchasing and distributing prepaid phone cards for our Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen, and Coast Guardsmen. Many individuals, including members of this organization, are stretching their finances to do so and their support may be jeopardized if a higher levy is imposed on prepaid phone cards.

FRA implores the Commission to forego any ruling that would affect an increase in the costs of prepaid phone cards until U.S. military service members and civilian employees no longer face sustained daily combat and the threat of loss of life and limb.

With appreciation for considering this request, I am,

Sincerely,

JOSEPH L. BARNES
National Executive Secretary

JLB:cam:teg

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